

SITUATION REPORT NO. 9
INCIDENT NO. 2006-016
DATE: April 13, 2006 Time: 3:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Spring Flooding** – The rapid snowmelt of heavy winter snow accumulations, compounded by spring rains and sudden warm temperatures, is causing spring flooding in the Red River Valley.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No change from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:**

Flood Projections by River (updated April 13, at 8:00 a.m.)

For more information log on to <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=fgf>

Major Flooding
Moderate Flooding
Minor Flooding
Near Flood Stage
No Flooding

				THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Location	Flood Stage	Crest	Date	April 13	April 14	April 15	April 16	April 17	April 18	April 19
Wild Rice River at Abercrombie	10 feet	25.10 ft	4/2	10.3 feet	9.6 feet	8.8 feet	7.9 feet	7.4 feet	7.0 feet	6.6 feet
Sheyenne River at Harwood	884 feet	891.35 ft	4/3	883.1 feet	882.3 feet	881.2 feet	880.3 feet	879.6 feet	879.1 feet	878.8 feet
Red River at Fargo	18 feet	37.18 ft	4/5	27.7 feet	26.8 feet	25.8 feet	25.2 feet	24.8 feet	24.4 feet	24.0 feet
Red River at E. Grand Forks	28 feet	47.85 ft	4/6	43.49 feet	43.0 feet	42.2 feet	41.4 feet	40.7 feet	39.7 feet	38.7 feet
Red River at Oslo	26 feet	37.70 ft	4/6	36.9 feet	36.8 feet	36.5 feet	36.1 feet	35.8 feet	35.4 feet	35.0 feet
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	43-44 ft	downward	42.6 feet	42.2 feet	41.9 feet	41.6 feet	41.2 feet	40.9 feet	40.6 feet
Red River at Pembina	49 feet	49-50 ft	still rising	51.27 feet	52.0 feet	52.0 feet	51.9 feet	51.9 feet	51.8 feet	51.7 feet
Willow Creek at Willow City	10 feet	14.08 ft	4/3	12.4 feet	12.3 feet	12.2 feet	12.1 feet	not listed	not listed	not listed
Souris River at Westhope	10 feet	10.1	4/7	9.7 feet	9.7 feet	9.6 feet	9.6 feet	not listed	not listed	not listed
Pembina River at Neche	18 feet	23-23 ft	still rising	21.4 feet	21.6 feet	21.9 feet	22.2 feet	22.6 feet	23.0 feet	23.0 feet
Pembina River at Walhalla	11 feet	14.38 ft	still rising	14.3 feet	14.4 feet	14.4 feet	14.5 feet	14.6 feet	14.6 feet	14.5 feet

The Grand Forks National Weather Service (NWS) Flood Statement indicated river levels remain high as tributary runoff continues to flow into the Pembina River. River flows between Walhalla and Neche are breaking out of river banks and moving overland. Farther south, the levels of the Wild Rice and Sheyenne Rivers are falling as continued dry weather helps reduce the impacts of flooding.

On April 14, the N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) reported southbound access to the Alexander Henry rest area along I-29 was re-opened. Floodwaters are still close to the shoulders of both the northbound and southbound off-ramps to the rest area, which is located near Drayton.

On April 11, NDDOT advised that only local traffic will be allowed on N.D. Highway 59 between I-29 and the Red River. The roadway on the Minnesota side of the river is closed due to flooding. The closure will remain in force until further notice.

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports from local Emergency Managers:

Cass County

Seven county and 21 township roads remain closed as a result of flooding. Most of the road closures are in the northeastern part of the county along the Red River.

Cavalier County

The County Emergency Manager reported approximately four to five roads in each township have water flowing over them with several remaining closed. Water levels are beginning to recede.

Pembina County

On April 12, a dike breach north of the international border was alleviating stalled runoff and overland flooding around the Pembina River area. However, Canadian officials are attempting to plug the breach in conflict with U.S. concerns.

On April 13, the Emergency Manager reported that County 55 is closed from the junction of County Road 2 north of Cavalier to I-29. Water is now flowing over the roadway in three places between Neche and Pembina. Officials are concerned that a driveway along the north side of County 55, located 2.25 miles west of Neche and one mile south, may breach and allow floodwaters to flow over N.D. Highway 18. City of Neche officials are worried about the impact of this water on the south end of the town.

The State Water Commission (SWC) conducted an aerial surveillance and identified several areas of concern in the county to include water near a television tower, located five miles east of N.D. Highway 18. The Pembina River is breaking out south of County Road 55 into the Rosebud Coulee as well as at Northern Coulee, south of Neche. SWC officials identified various river water storage pockets and river water break-outs along the Windgate area.

Sargent County

The County Emergency Manager reported ground thaw, combined with snow melt, river flow and impending spring rain, is causing an extended spring flood concern. All snow in the tree belts has melted and culverts are moving water to low-lying areas, increasing water depths around the roads. Ground saturation from 2005 summer and fall rains left the county with water storage areas filled to capacity going into winter, which resulted in overland flooding with this spring's thaw.

Local officials indicated an April 6 storm that produced six-tenths of one inch of rain created an impact similar to three to four inch rain under normal conditions. The school district has terminated bus transportation of up to six residents until further notice.

Emergency response vehicles are unable to reach 23 rural residences because of flood conditions. The County Emergency Manager notified the residents. Ambulance personnel are identifying alternate methods to reach these residents.

Roads in Brampton Township are closed to local traffic only. All county roads in this area remain open but are in very poor condition. Officials for other townships reported water is flowing over roads causing damages to road surfaces and sub-grades. These township sites are being flagged, signed, and closed as needed.

Additionally, several homeowners reported water and/or moisture in basements.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: On April 12, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) delivered a sump pump for the Salvation Army to a rural residence along the Red River, six miles north of Oslo.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven, State Engineer Dale Frink and N.D. Division of Homeland Security Director Greg Wilz on April 13 met with local and tribal officials in the Devils Lake and Pembina areas to review flood conditions and communities' preparation and response efforts.

Governor Hoeven has activated N.D. National Guard troops and equipment to assist with Red River flooding north of Grand Forks to the border. The National Guard mobilized three tractor-trailers, two dozers, one loader and four 20-ton dump trucks to assist with flood flight efforts in the Pembina-Cavalier areas. Fourteen soldiers are currently on State Active Duty and are assisting with transporting and pre-positioning sandbags, constructing a dike in south Pembina

and monitoring area dikes. Additionally, a UH-1 helicopter has been stationed at Grand Forks International Airport. The crew has been taking local officials on twice daily reconnaissance flights.

Cavalier County

Local township officials continue to monitor water levels.

Pembina County

The Pembina Flood Committee met on April 10 in continued response to the rising potential threat from the Pembina and Red Rivers. The Red River was nearing 50 feet, with NWS crest projections remaining at between 51.5 and 52.5 feet next Friday, April 14, or Saturday, April 15.

On April 11, the County Emergency Manager issued a news release requesting volunteers for a 24-hour dike patrol. The dike patrol command center is being staffed 24-hours per day until further notice.

The Hallock Fire and Ambulance Departments will cover the Pembina Fire and Pembina Ambulance areas on the Minnesota side of the river, except for the town of St. Vincent, until the access route reopens between St. Vincent and Pembina.

Stop logs were installed on the Pembina River Bridge on April 9. Traffic will not be allowed to pass through south Pembina until further notice. Pembina County officials conducted an aerial surveillance on April 12 to investigate overland flooding along the Pembina River.

Walsh County

County officials continue to monitor Red River flooding with intentions to open roads west of I-29 after the Easter weekend. County Road 19, from I-29 and two miles west, has been re-opened.

The County Emergency Manager reported all rivers have crested and officials are waiting for the water to recede so they can begin clean up and assess damages. Residents are reminded to contact local officials in the event assistance is needed. The County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has reduced its hours of operation.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No changes from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: A complete list of road conditions is available at the NDDOT website at www.state.nd.us/dot/.

The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

Greg Wilz, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security